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Tips For Smooth Holiday Travel

"Air travelers who follow three simple tips, which can be summarized as IN, OUT, and OFF, will contribute significantly to steps the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is taking to ensure aviation security and make travel more enjoyable during the busy holiday season," DHS Under Secretary for Border and Transportation Security, Asa Hutchinson said on November 18th at Reagan National Airport. "With more people flying now, there will be additional challenges. Airports will be crowded so it's important to allow plenty of time to check-in and go through security." For the IN, OUT, and OFF tips, more travel tips, and a complete list of items prohibited from carry-on or checked baggage, visit www.TSATravelTips.us or call the Contact Center toll-free at (866) 289-9673.

From the Program Coordinator's Desk

I recently returned from Columbus where I spent the day with the **Ohio Citizen Corps**. Even though it was the same week as the Michigan-Ohio State game, I was warmly welcomed but took a lot of ribbing! Good thing I didn't visit the following week!

Michigan and Ohio share the same concerns post September 11 and both are forging ahead with Citizen Corps programs. Ohio has more Citizen Corps Councils registered than Michigan. Michigan's councils are more active and trained more volunteers through CERT. I attended a press conference where Governor Taft announced a

statewide kickoff for all Ohioans to join Citizen Corps to help protect Ohio.

The second CERT Train the Trainer class took place December 15-16 at the CREST Center in Oakland County. Fifty additional trainers are poised and ready to begin CERT instruction to citizens. Unfortunately, we received more applications than we could fill as space was limited. The next Train the Trainer class is scheduled for February 9-10, 2004 at Alpena Community College. Details about this training will be posted by the end of December. Several classes are being planned for 2004.

December 4th, I attended **Detroit's first CERT team graduation ceremony**. It was a great time for all and the media coverage was positive for the CERT program. Detroit is planning to train its second CERT team in January 2004.

Lansing Emergency Management is offering CERT training through their continuing education program. Says Rhonda Oberlin of Lansing Emergency Management:

There is real potential for teams in the neighborhoods, workplaces and schools. Once we have more instructors trained we will be able to take advantage of these opportunities. We had 26 participants in our last class and seven completed the first class last May. We expect more growth in 2004. For more information on Lansing CERT Training call the Volunteer Center of Mid-Michigan at 517-203-3010.

It is amazing how much interest is being generated for Citizen Corps and CERT. We see nothing but future growth and are planning for a surge when the 2004 funding from Office of Domestic Preparedness is announced. I have had discussions with several communities that are interested in organizing Citizen Corps councils and CERT trainings.

GUEST COLUMN

**Jeff Friedland, Emergency Management
Coordinator St. Clair County**

ST. CLAIR COUNTY CITIZENS CORP

The Citizens Corp Advisory Council of St. Clair County continues to prepare for a very exciting 2004. The Council is focusing on the primary areas in which substantial strides in preparing our communities will be made.

Realizing that preparedness for emergencies begins in the home and workplace, the first focus is on the new Self Awareness For Emergencies (SAFE) Academy, which will begin in January. This three-hour academy is a condensed version of the CERT program and the goal of the council will be 3000 county residents participating in the academy during 2004. The program will be held at various locations throughout the county and are led by volunteer instructors.

In several homeland security community forums, neighborhood and community safety were discussed by many individuals. In a cooperative effort with the law enforcement agencies within the county, the Citizens Corp Advisory Council is not only assisting police with the Neighborhood Watch program but expanding it into a SAFE Neighborhood program. The goal of this program is not only to strengthen concerns about crime safety but also to expand into other important areas of safety, which includes, fire, CPR, first aid etc. SAFE Neighborhood groups will have a menu of safety presentations to select from for their regular neighborhood meetings.

As we strengthen our neighborhoods, we will offer CERT training to select members of those neighborhood/communities. The goal for 2004 is to create seven CERT programs that correspond with seven Citizens Corp Districts. Our CERT Coordinator, Ms. Jodi Davis, has made necessary changes to the curriculum, priced CERT member training equipment, and is ready to begin training secondary instructors.

The most critical challenge to the Advisory Committee is insuring that there are sufficient activities to maintain interest in the CERT program. Already secondary training is being identified, and

the Office of Emergency Management is incorporating the CERT groups into various support measures.

2004 will be exciting and challenging as these programs are a significant step toward preparing our citizens and neighborhoods to ensure a safer community. Programs such as these will assist our emergency responders who, in light of current budget issues, are being asked to do more with less!

2003 AmeriCorps poised to get big funding increase from Congress

By JENNIFER C. KERR Associated Press Writer
WASHINGTON (AP) –November 26, 2003

Hobbled by management and money problems, the AmeriCorps national service program stands to get a huge funding boost from Congress that could swell its ranks of volunteers next year. Rolled into the \$373 billion spending bill worked out by congressional and White House negotiators this week was \$444 million for AmeriCorps -- an increase of more than 50 percent over the past fiscal year. It's also about \$10 million more than the amount requested by President Bush for the struggling program. And while the deal hasn't been sealed, the nonprofits and other groups that rely on AmeriCorps money are optimistic that the cash infusion could put them back on sound footing after deep cuts to their programs over the past year.

"I'm very excited," said Alan Khazei, co-founder and chief executive officer of the Boston-based City Year program. "If these funds are used to restore last year's cuts in programs and services, then this is a big victory for congressional bipartisanship, for President Bush's call to service, for tens of thousands of idealistic men and women who stand ready and waiting to serve their country."

Khazei's group recruits and trains young volunteers to teach and mentor children, build playgrounds and paint schools. Its funding from AmeriCorps was cut 45 percent in the last fiscal year, which Khazei says left 250 would-be corps members jobless.

Kyle Caldwell, executive director of the Michigan Community Service Commission in Lansing also was upbeat about the potential for more federal funds.

"We're delighted," said Caldwell. He added that the additional \$444 million would "help stave off some of the pain that we're suffering right now."

Caldwell's commission administers AmeriCorps funds to local programs, which saw 60 percent across-the-board cuts. Some 400 corps members saw their positions disappear.

The federal agency that runs AmeriCorps -- the Corporation for National and Community Service -- has been plagued by mismanagement and financial troubles. It slashed payments this year to many of the more than 2,000 groups it supports, resulting in the loss of community service positions for thousands of corps members. Some Republicans balked when AmeriCorps supporters urged Congress over the summer to approve \$100 million in emergency money. Critics argued AmeriCorps was riddled with management woes and had caused its own problems. In 2002, the corporation approved positions for 67,000 AmeriCorps members -- a number it couldn't support. Because of the over-enrollment, only 30,000 volunteers were approved for this year. Bush has backed the expansion of the program to 75,000 volunteers, but it's unclear what kind of an impact the \$444 million from Congress would have, if approved. Lawmakers could vote on the increase next month. The corporation praised the agreement for increased funding. In a statement, Stephen Goldsmith, chairman of the corporation's board of directors, said it would "result in a significant increase for AmeriCorps that would allow more Americans than ever to serve their communities through the program." He did not provide any figures on how many positions the money would pay for. Most AmeriCorps volunteers are college-age students who receive a \$9,300 annual stipend for their service and qualify for a \$4,725 college grant.

VIPS Program News

The International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) announced the creation of a new awards program in partnership with Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC). The **Outstanding Achievement in Law Enforcement Volunteer Programs** award will seek volunteer programs that are showing innovative and creative practices for augmenting sworn or civilian staff and/or improving service delivery to their communities.

"It is clear that to succeed in protecting our nation from crime and helping communities recover from emergencies and disasters, law enforcement agencies need the cooperation and help from the people they serve," said Donnie Marshall, senior vice president and manager for SAIC's Global Security Solutions and Service Group. "SAIC is very proud to be able to do our part in honoring those agencies that will go the extra mile to ensure that our country remains strong and safe for all who live here."

The Outstanding Achievement in Law Enforcement Volunteer Programs award will be officially presented to the winner(s) next year during the 111th Annual IACP Conference in Los Angeles, California. As additional information about the award becomes available, it will be publicized on the [IACP website](#).

The Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS) Program also released its new document ***Volunteer Programs: Enhancing Public Safety by Leveraging Resources*** at the 110th annual IACP Conference in Philadelphia. You can download a copy of the guide from the [VIPS Resources page](#). You can also request a hard copy of the guide by sending your name and mailing address to the VIPS Program staff at info@policevolunteers.org.

Remarks by Secretary of Homeland Security Tom Ridge Announcing FY04 ODP Grant Allocations

Charleston, West Virginia - A little over two years ago, America was attacked. It was our generation's "Day of Infamy," another "unprovoked, dastardly attack" that ushered in a new World War - the global war against terrorism. Our enemy hides among democratic peoples, plotting to repeat the sneak attack of September 11th -- perhaps, once again, in America. They aim to turn a free people into a fearful people. Who stands in their way? The men and women of Homeland Security, who work throughout this country at all levels of government.

Every day they work to prevent terrorist attacks on American soil, to reduce our vulnerabilities to an attack and to prepare our communities so that we may save lives and mitigate the damage from a future attack. We cannot secure the nation solely from the nation's capital. We need to support those

"first preventers" and "first responders" at the state and local level who are our partners in this effort.

Today, we announce a new set of tools - a total of \$2.2 billion in grants -- to help them do their jobs efficiently, aggressively and, above all, safely.

First, nearly \$1.7 billion in State Homeland Security Grants from the 2004 Federal Budget will be made available to states and then to localities. They will be used for equipment, training and exercises, as well as for statewide planning to ensure the wisest and most practical use of these resources.

West Virginia, for instance, had "panels of excellence" choose new equipment, then the state purchased it in bulk, so that every region knew what to expect and how to train. It's a model that helps prevent both dangerous gaps and wasteful overlaps in protection.

Another half-billion dollars will be awarded in new Law Enforcement Prevention Grants - the key word is "prevention." Law enforcement fought hard for those funds, and so did we. And after the President signed the FY 2004 budget, we got to work right away to discuss how to best spend these dollars so that we can enhance our partnership in preventing terrorism.

These grants can be used to provide interoperable communications - to improve information sharing -- or to purchase law enforcement equipment, such as SWAT gear, that previously was not covered.

They can also be used to identify critical infrastructure that might be targeted by terrorists, then to "harden" those targets. Louisiana, for example, has performed a vulnerability assessment of 28 critical infrastructure sites and written an operations plan to secure each one. These prevention grants will help Louisiana and other states turn plans into action.

Finally, \$40 million is dedicated to the President's Citizen Corps program, which has a strong presence in West Virginia. The funds will be used to educate families about the crucial role they play in preparedness and the many volunteer opportunities available to them. All told, more than \$6 billion will have been made available or awarded to states and localities since March 1st, 2003.

We've moved quickly to get that money out the door. We approved 96 percent of the 2003 grant requests within four days -- and required states to obligate funding to cities within 45 days. And state and local officials will find future grants much easier to locate thanks to our new "one-stop shopping" web site - www.dhs.gov/grants. The site provides information on homeland security and public safety grant opportunities throughout the federal government. These include public health preparedness grants under HHS, counter-terrorism grants under DOJ and water-security grants governed by EPA.

Another important feature of the portal is the listing of all federal anti-terrorism related training for our state and local partners, with information on who is eligible and how to enroll. Users can search either by agency or by training type. The new grants are designed to build on our already robust capabilities. Our goal is to identify and meet locally driven needs - driven by statewide plans - in the most flexible and streamlined way possible.

We also asked states to develop regional approaches with strong mutual aid agreements. We urged them to tap the considerable expertise and resources of the private sector and the academic community. And we stressed the immediate safety needs of first responders. If the protectors are not protected, many thousands of lives could be put at risk.

Finally, we will never forget that when the "new normal" began on September 12th, 2001, your "old normal" responsibilities did not disappear. The people, who turned our power back on this summer - who provided aid and comfort after Hurricane Isabel - and who, at this very minute, are battling the worst fires in California history - these brave men and women know what it takes to secure the homeland. More than a few have given their lives in the effort.

They're on the front lines, and need every tool and weapon we can muster to save lives, including their own.

I am proud of the fact that in West Virginia, our 2003 grants helped pay for 50-person mobile hospitals, which were pre-positioned in areas expected to be hard hit by Hurricane Isabel.

And in California, grant money helped pay for some of the secure breathing apparatuses and protective suits worn by those very firefighters.

Gen. George S. Patton, a hero of our last World War, once said, "Wars may be fought with weapons, but they are won by men." The brave men and women of homeland security give their best when faced with the worst. They will be ready - trained, equipped, drilled and prepared - for whatever Mother Nature or man has to offer. And the \$2.2 billion we provide today will not only help bring out their best - it may someday prevent the worst from happening again on American soil.

For more information:

[Helping Our Nation's First Responders](#)

[FY04 DHS Counterterrorism Grants - State Allocations](#)

Building a Culture of Service

By John M. Bridgeland

In the aftermath of September 11, President Bush sought to foster a culture of service, citizenship and responsibility. In his 2002 State of the Union, he asked every American to give at least two years of their lives in service to others. He created the USA Freedom Corps, an ambitious service effort that coordinates more than \$1 billion in new and existing domestic and international service initiatives and connects millions of Americans to service opportunities in communities, schools and workplaces. No one knew how Americans would respond.

The existing landscape looked bleak. In "Bowling Alone," Robert Putnam catalogued a 30-year decline in volunteer service and civic participation, showing major reductions in volunteers for organizations, such as the Red Cross and the Boy Scouts. Experts agreed that rapid progress in volunteer mobilization was rare. Would September 11 be the unique moment in history that would lead more Americans to serve others?

Looking at how Americans are responding, there are strong signs of hope. Within two years of the president's call to service, the new Citizen Corps is

mobilizing Americans nationwide to prepare for emergencies, including terrorist attacks. More than 900 local communities have formed Citizen Corps Councils in all states and the nation's capital and territories. Doctors and nurses in 170 communities are now part of a new Medical Reserve Corps. Neighborhood Watch programs have nearly doubled; programs providing volunteers to police departments have increased 900 percent; and Community Emergency Response Team training has expanded from 170 communities in 28 states to 635 communities in 51 states and territories. Citizen Corps volunteers have responded to wildfires in California, Hurricane Isabel in the East, and tornadoes and floods in the Midwest. Existing programs that the president targeted to expand are experiencing a similar response. Senior Corps, a program that attracts half a million older Americans to care for other seniors and tutor children, recruited an additional 33,000 volunteers last year and will recruit another 67,000 this year. Take Pride in America is enlisting 200,000 volunteers to improve our public lands. The response to AmeriCorps was so strong it overwhelmed a decade-old system. Strong financial and management controls are being implemented to ensure accountability, as the administration and Congress work to expand AmeriCorps from 50,000 to 75,000 members.

The swelling response was not confined to domestic programs. Since January 2002, Peace Corps have received more than 200,000 inquiries for its 7,533 slots. While Peace Corps is working to double its volunteers over five years, other opportunities for service are needed. The president created Volunteers for Prosperity to deploy tens of thousands of American professionals on short-term assignments to prevent and treat HIV/AIDS, provide clean water for the poor and open new markets for entrepreneurs in developing countries.

Nor has the robust response been limited to federally supported service programs. More than 700 CEOs of companies with 5 million employees have responded by forming Business Strengthening America. These leaders are fostering changes that are real and long-term — providing administrative leave and transportation for thousands of employees to read to children in public schools, and matching employee contributions to nonprofits where employees volunteer.

In just two months, more than 1,000 organizations registered to certify their volunteers for the new President's Volunteer Service Award. This recognition honors adults who volunteer 100 hours, or anyone 14 or younger who serves 50 hours in one year. The Greatest Generation's Bob Dole and John Glenn stepped forward to lead the new President's Council on Service with Darrell Green. Presidential recognition can connect every American to the culture of service every year.

Millions of Americans are finding it easier to serve by accessing the USA Freedom Corps Volunteer Network — the most comprehensive online clearinghouse connecting citizens with service opportunities close to home or around the world.

For the first time, our country has an annual "civic index," a Census Bureau survey showing that more than 59 million Americans volunteered regularly through a school, house of worship, or other organization in the year following that tragic day in September.

The response to the president's call to service has been enthusiastic and strong for every program and category we measure. Americans are signing up in droves to become an even greater nation of joiners and givers. It is this selfless service to others, where citizens step forward to solve our toughest problems, that makes us unique in the world and connects us to what it really means to be an American.

John M. Bridgeland is assistant to the president and director of USA Freedom Corps at the White House.

Civil Air Patrol Celebrates 62nd Birthday

The Civil Air Patrol is alive and well and protecting the home skies, just as its members have since December 1, 1941, when the organization was first formed.

The all-volunteer organization, which celebrates its 62nd anniversary this week, was founded during World War II to protect the US coastline from enemy submarine attacks. And since the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, CAP members are finding themselves performing homeland security missions once again.

During its early days, CAP's civilian pilots also served as couriers for US defense plants and the US Army, towed targets for antiaircraft artillery practice, patrolled for spies and saboteurs, and rushed medicines and supplies by air to disaster areas. CAP also performed search and rescue missions, flew sentry over Mexican the border and spotted forest fires, work for which the organization is still known today.

In 1948, the CAP became the official civilian auxiliary of the US Air Force. "Many baby boomers remember Civil Air Patrol from the 1950s and 1960s, when America was concerned about nuclear weapons, the Cold War and the Space Race," said Maj. General Richard Bowling, the CAP's national commander. "Back then we did a lot of reconnaissance flying, trained a lot of cadets who were interested in military service, and helped satisfy the public's insatiable fascination with aerospace. What people may not realize is that CAP has continued to thrive as an organization. On any given day, throughout this nation, there are CAP members quietly doing volunteer work in their local communities."

Today's Civil Air Patrol boasts some 64,000 members nationwide; including about 27,000 cadets ages 12 to 21. These volunteers give of their time and resources to perform traditional CAP missions, including search and rescue, aerial reconnaissance and air transport.

Only a fraction of CAP members are pilots, however. Many other members serve in less visible ways. Some train and mentor cadets in moral leadership, military customs and technical education. Others serve as chaplains and can stand in for military chaplains who are deployed in times of war, or serve communities in critical incident stress management. Still others work in public schools, leading classroom projects that illustrate key principles in science and math.

Perhaps most important in today's Civil Air Patrol is the increased emphasis on homeland security missions. Now under the oversight of the US Air Force's Homeland Security Directorate, CAP members just in the past year have participated in bioterror training exercises such as Determined Promise and Falcon Virgo, flown reconnaissance over key US locations such as the 2002 Winter

Olympics and the launch site for the space shuttle Columbia, and assisted in airborne intercept training for the US Air Force.

"We foresee even greater emphasis on homeland security missions in future months," Bowling said, "as CAP develops its capabilities in this arena."

CAP is already purchasing additional aircraft and equipment for homeland security missions.

For more information about the Michigan Citizen Corps, contact the program coordinator, Gary Zulinski at the Michigan Community Service Commission at (517) 241-3867 or zulinskig@michigan.gov.